

Senate Joint Resolution 2 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
2 of the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office
3 and limit the term of service of members of the general
4 assembly.
5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
4 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

5 **Representatives — classification — terms.** SEC. 3. The
6 members of the house of representatives shall be chosen by the
7 qualified electors of their respective districts, and their
8 term of office shall commence on the first day of January
9 following their election, and continue four years, and until
10 their successors are elected and qualified. Representatives
11 shall be classified by statute so that as nearly as possible
12 one-half of the members of the house of representatives shall
13 be elected every two years. A person shall not be elected
14 for a term as representative if the term would result in more
15 than a total of twelve years of service as a representative.
16 If a person is elected to serve a portion of a term to which
17 some other person was elected but that person died in office
18 or resigned from office or was otherwise removed from office,
19 those years served shall not be included in the years of
20 service for purposes of this limitation. This limitation
21 on the years of service shall only apply to terms of office
22 beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

23 The general assembly shall make such changes in the
24 law governing the time of election and terms of office of
25 representatives as shall be necessary to make the time of their
26 election and terms of office conform to this amendment.

27 2. Section 5 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
28 of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

29 **Senators — qualifications — terms.** SEC. 5. Senators shall
30 be chosen for a term of six years, at the same time and place as
31 representatives; they shall be at least twenty-five years of
32 age, and possess the qualifications of representatives as to
33 residence and citizenship. A person shall not be elected for a
34 term as senator if the term would result in more than a total of
35 twelve years of service as a senator. If a person is elected

1 to serve a portion of a term to which some other person was
 2 elected but that person died in office or resigned from office
 3 or was otherwise removed from office, those years served shall
 4 not be included in the years of service for purposes of this
 5 limitation. This limitation on the years of service shall only
 6 apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

7 The general assembly shall make such changes in the law
 8 governing the time of election and terms of office of senators
 9 as shall be necessary to make the time of their election and
 10 terms of office conform to this amendment.

11 3. Section 6 of Article III of the Constitution of the State
 12 of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 3 of the Amendments of
 13 1968, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

14 **Senators — number and classification.** SEC. 6. The number of
 15 senators shall total not more than one-half the membership of
 16 the house of representatives. Senators shall be classified by
 17 statute so that as nearly as possible one-third of the members
 18 of the senate shall be elected every two years.

19 4. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the
 20 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of Amendments
 21 of 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of 1904, and
 22 amendment number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is repealed and
 23 the following adopted in lieu thereof:

24 **Senators and representatives — number and districts —**
 25 **terms.** SEC. 35. The general assembly shall in each year
 26 immediately following the United States decennial census
 27 determine the number of senators and representatives to be
 28 elected to the general assembly and establish senatorial and
 29 representative districts. The general assembly shall complete
 30 the apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.
 31 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September
 32 15 of such year, the supreme court shall cause the state to
 33 be apportioned into senatorial and representative districts
 34 to comply with the requirements of the constitution prior to
 35 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,

1 where necessary in establishing senatorial and representative
2 districts, shorten the term of any senator or representative
3 prior to completion of the term. Any senator or representative
4 whose term is so terminated shall not be compensated for the
5 uncompleted part of the term.

6 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment
7 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the
8 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election for
9 members of the general assembly, and the secretary of state is
10 directed to cause the proposed amendment to be published for
11 three consecutive months previous to the date of that election
12 as provided by law.

EXPLANATION

14 This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment
15 relating to length of term and term of service for members of
16 the general assembly. The amendment provides that the length
17 of term of office for members of the house of representatives
18 shall be four years and for members of the senate the length
19 of term of office shall be six years. The amendment provides
20 that one-third of the members of the senate and one-half of
21 the members of the house of representatives are to be elected
22 every two years. The amendment also provides that members of
23 the Iowa house of representatives shall not serve more than 12
24 years as a representative and that members of the Iowa senate
25 shall not serve more than 12 years as a senator. If a person
26 serves a portion of a term to which some other person was
27 elected, the partial term shall not be included in the years
28 of service. The limitation on the years of service shall only
29 apply to terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

30 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
31 general assembly before being submitted to the electorate for
32 ratification.